



Blanchard: Teaching in Kosovo

For 1LT Scott Blanchard, a 9mm pistol is required equipment in the classroom.

UNIVERSITY of Maryland instructors don't usually carry weapons in the classroom, but for one math teacher in Kosovo a 9mm pistol is required equipment.

1LT Scott Blanchard, a military police platoon leader assigned to the 66th Military Police Company from Fort Lewis, Wash., teaches a University of Maryland math class to soldiers deployed to an outpost in Kamenica, Kosovo.

Unlike the student body at most college campuses, his students are all members of his unit. The 1st platoon's soldiers man an MP substation in Kamenica, from which they conduct patrols and provide security for the area.

The outpost, about an hour's drive from the platoon's base camp at Camp Monteith, has few amenities. Food and mail have to be delivered. The nearest education center offering college courses is also at Camp Monteith. Soldiers at the outpost can take correspondence or Internet courses but, without an instructor, can't take regular college courses.

Because Blanchard has an engineering degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., university officials waived the standard requirement that their instructors have a master's degree; they considered the fact that the USMA's engineering program is math-intensive.

Soldiers in Blanchard's platoon can therefore accumulate college credit while they're forward-deployed. They also have the benefit of having an instructor who's always available to answer questions.

"The 'LT' is more than happy to stay after class, or answer questions when we're on a mission, when we take a break for chow or something," said SGT Codean Henriques.

College credit is not the only benefit for the platoon. Taking the course together helps the soldiers work as a team. "It builds platoon cohesion," said PFC Blair Grisham.

Angela Schneider, another University of Maryland instructor in Kosovo, has high praise for soldiers who are willing to give their time and energy to teaching college classes. "They're not interested in themselves, they're interested in their soldiers. That's the kind of teachers we want." — *U.S. Army, Europe, Public Affairs Office*

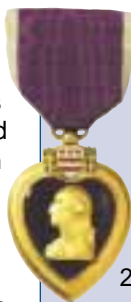
MAJ Patrick Crabtree, a military police officer assigned as a writer and instructor of military subjects at the U. S. Army Chaplain Center and School at Fort Jackson, S.C., donated one of his kidneys to a member of his church less than a year ago.

Beverly Humphrey, the 31-year-old recipient, had suffered from diabetes since she was 10 and had been on dialysis for a year. Without a kidney transplant, her chances of survival were grim, said Crabtree, who met Humphrey in 1999 at the church they both attend.

"Many people are blessed with good health, and many others are born without it," he said. "Donating a kidney was the right thing to do."

After consulting with his family about what he planned to do, and getting their blessing, Crabtree underwent the preliminaries required by Duke University Medical Center physicians in Durham, N.C., where the surgery was performed. These included a simple blood test to determine its properties.

One of six antigens — substances in the body that stimulate the production of antibodies against



FOR a soldier, the possibility of getting killed or wounded in combat is a cold, stark reality, said **1LT Bradley Maroyka**, a platoon leader with the 10th Mountain Division. He knows firsthand, because he was wounded twice March 2, during Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan.

Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White and **Army Chief of Staff GEN Eric K. Shinseki** recently presented the 25-year-old infantry officer the Purple Heart for his wounds.

White and Shinseki, along with **SGM of the Army Jack L. Tilley**, presented the Purple Heart to 17 wounded soldiers who were recuperating from injuries at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Three other soldiers wounded in Afghanistan and

infection and foreign tissue cells — matched. It meant the possibility of Humphrey's body rejecting the donated kidney would be reduced.

"They also checked my kidney function and blood flow, and performed a CAT scan of the kidneys to help determine which kidney to take," Crabtree said.

"I received approval from my supervisors and the Army surgeon general to go ahead with the procedure. Timing was critical," said Crabtree, "because Beverly's veins were failing due to the dialysis."

Two days after the surgery he was back home at Fort Jackson, where his condition was monitored at the post hospital.

Crabtree had been granted permissive TDY for travel to North Carolina and, after the surgery, went on sick call and convalescent leave with a restricted profile for two weeks.

"After six weeks, I resumed my normal schedule," Crabtree said. Humphrey was able to resume her normal activities at about the same time. Today she's a volunteer, working with other diabetics. — *Nella Hobson, U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School PAO*

SIX months and a day after being burned over more than 60 percent of his body when a jetliner slammed into the Pentagon in September, **LTC Brian Birdwell** returned to work.

The 40-year-old Quartermaster Corps officer will initially work two half-days a week, he said. Birdwell, who has undergone several skin-graft operations, faces more surgery. He wears compression garments to lessen scarring around the numerous grafts, and con-

slated to get Purple Hearts from the Army's top leaders had already been released from the hospital on convalescent leave.

"We get put in harm's way. That's the nature of what we do," Maroyka said. "Every wounded soldier here today knew when he raised his right hand and swore to defend this nation that he could be wounded or killed. We all enlisted anyway."

More than half of the wounded soldiers at Walter Reed at the time were from the 10th Mountain Division's 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry. — *ARNEWS*

White and Shinseki talk to SGT Thomas Finch, one of 17 casualties from the fighting in Afghanistan who received Purple Hearts during ceremonies at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.



Crabtree: Kidney donor.

Nella Hobson

tinues a grueling physical-therapy regimen.

Birdwell was walking down corridor 4, on the Pentagon's second floor, on his way to coordinate military support for victims of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York when the attack on the Pentagon occurred. The airliner plowed through several of the Pentagon's rings, just north of where Birdwell was working, and he was immediately engulfed in flames.

He managed to stagger through the smoke and was rescued by a group of officers attempting to locate and get people out of the building.

He spent 26 days in intensive care and another month in recovery before he was released from the hospital for bed rest at a local hotel and convalescent leave at home.

Today, his body is 75-percent healed, said Birdwell, who's doing whatever it takes to reach the 100-percent mark. To increase his stamina, he does situps, walks and swims.

"Doctors say it takes about six days of moderate physical activity to make up for one day of inactivity — bed rest," Birdwell said. "That means I've got about 20 months of work to do."

Before the terrorist attack, Birdwell was the military assistant to the deputy chief of staff for installation management. Because of his lack of stamina, he can't face the 12- to 14-hour workdays that the job required. Today he's working as an anti-terrorism and force-protection staff officer. — *Army News Service*

Birdwell was burned over more than 60 percent of his body when an airliner slammed into the Pentagon on Sept. 11.



SSG Michael Raulio